

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claim 7.

By this Amendment, claims 1-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 7 and 8 have been amended. Claim 7 in general has been amended to place the claim in independent form including in general the limitations of intervening claims, except that the term "substantially" has been deleted and the term "an incident/emergent port" has been amended to the term --an incident and emergent port--. Claims 7 and 8 are thus believed to be in allowable form. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment before examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 7-8 would be pending.

II. Specification:

The Examiner has objected to the specification due to some informalities. The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, and thus, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Objection:

Claim 7 is objected to because they recite terminology of proximity, e.g., "substantially". The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103:

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakanaka (US 2002/0080452 A1). Claims 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sakanaka and in view of Inou et al. (US 4,783,851). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sakanaka and in view of Kato et al. (US 6,618,177).

To facilitate prosecution, claims 1-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 8 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 7, thereby rendering these rejections moot and placing the application in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5363.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5363.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By: 

James Hwa
Registration No. 42,680
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101